



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
Joe W. Stecher

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December 31, 2008

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Omaha Police Department announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On December 30, 2008, an indictment was unsealed charging Sheena James, age 26 of Omaha, and Emmanuel Jackson, age 22 of Omaha, with multiple federal crimes related to the “straw purchase” of firearms from a licensed firearms dealer. The indictment alleges James, Jackson and another person, deceased but known to the Grand Jury, conspired to acquire firearms for convicted felons during a time span of June of 2008 through September of 2008. According to the indictment, James was not a convicted felon and was therefore eligible to purchase firearms for herself. However, the indictment alleges Jackson and the deceased conspirator, both of whom were convicted felons, wanted to acquire guns. It is alleged the three conspired to have James purchase firearms that Jackson and the deceased individual had identified and then transfer the weapons to the convicted felons. James would complete the paperwork required to purchase the firearms and, in so doing, would falsely state that the weapons were for her and not being purchased on behalf of someone else.

James is charged with one count of conspiracy to make false statements in connection with the acquisition of a firearm, four counts of transferring a weapon to a prohibited person and four counts of making false statements in connection with the acquisition of a firearm. Jackson is charged with the same nine counts and with a separate charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm on October 13, 2008. All the charges are felonies.

James appeared before the Magistrate Judge F.A. Gossett on December 31, 2008. James was ordered held in jail pending trial. Jackson is scheduled to appear in court on January 2, 2008, to answer the charges.

United States Attorney Joe Stecher lauded the efforts a of the Omaha Police Department and the ATF in investigating the case. He also said “We take seriously the problem of gun violence in our communities. We have a long record of vigorously prosecuting felons who possess firearms.

I want those who might be tempted to supply firearms to prohibited persons to understand that they are committing a crime and we will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.”

Name of Defendant: Sheena James and Emmanuel Jackson

Age: 26 and 22 respectively

City of residence: Omaha

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to make false statements in connection with the acquisition of a firearm—up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine; All other counts are punishable by up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha

Location of Arrest: Omaha

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: NA

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: June of 2008 through September of 2008

Federal Arrest Date: December 30, 2008

Date Complaint Issued: NA

Indictment Returned Date: December 17, 2008

Initial Appearance Date: James—December 31, 2008; Jackson—January 2, 2008

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Yet to be determined

Sentencing Date: Yet to be determined

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: Trial

Assigned Magistrate Judge: F.A. Gossett

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Both currently in custody

In Continuous Custody Since: December 30, 2008

Assigned District Court Judge: Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: JWS/js